GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:609
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
LAXITY IN PROVIDING NEWS REGARDING EARTHQUAKE BY DOORDARSHAN
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the news regarding the devastating earthquake in Gujarat was reported by Doordarshan only at noon, when the calamity took place early at 9 a.m. on January 26,2001, while the other private channels took lead in reporting the tragedy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the laxity and callous attitude of Doordarshan authorities in reporting the worst human tragedy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of Doordarshan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): No Sir.

(b)&(c): Do not arise.

(d): It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has been continuouslytaking various suitable steps to improve its professional standards in the presentation of news programmes etc. Doordarshan adopts the latest techniques from all quarters for improvement in quality of its presentation/ coverage with a view to competing with other private TV channels.